

## Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /084 W  
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R 011543Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1389

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMECOASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3059

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, NG

SUBJ: NIGER'S PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE RETURNS FROM OAU SUMMIT

1. RETURNING HASTILY TO NIAMEY JULY 30, OBVIOUSLY OUT OF CONCERN FOR EVENTS IN NIGERIA, PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO JUSTIFY HIS PRESENCE IN UGANDA, TO OBLIQUELY CRITICIZE AFRICAN LEADERS WHO BOYCOTTED OAU SUMMIT MEETING, AND TO NOTE RESPECT FOR AMIN.

2. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT NON-PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE BEEN A MARK OF DISRESPECT "TO OUR ORGANIZATION" WHICH HAS LATELY COME UNDER "CHALLENGE." OBSERVING THAT AMIN WAS THE FIRST CHIEF OF STATE TO COME TO NIGER FOLLOWING APRIL 1974 COUP, KOUNTCHE EMPHASIZED HE WISHED TO MAKE SPECIAL GESTURE OF PERSONAL SYMPATHY AND REGARD FOR AMIN.

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3. IN ROUTINE REVIEW OF ITEMS ON OAU AGENDA,

KOUNTCHE RESTATED NIGERIEN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, WHILE STOPPING WELL SHORT OF SPECIFICS AND OMITTING ANY MENTION OF ISRAEL EXPULSION ISSUE. HE ALSO REITERATED THEME INCREASINGLY MENTIONED BY GON REPS IN RECENT MONTHS THAT OAU SHOULD SERVE AS A FORUM FOR SETTLEMENT OF REMAINING AFRICAN BOUNDARY PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT: WHAT NIGERIENS HAVE IN MIND RE LATTER IS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT NUMEROUS GRAY AREAS ALONG LIBYAN AND ALGERIAN FRONTIERS, WHERE PROBLEM IS LESS ONE OF CARTOGRAPHY THAN ON-THE-GROUND DEMARCATION. GON INTEREST IN URANIUM COUPLED WITH ONGOING PETROLEUM EXPLORATIONS SUGGEST THAT ISSUE OF BOUNDARIES WILL BE OF MOUNTING CONCERN TO GON.

5. AS TO AMIN, WHATEVER DOUBTS ARE HARBORED ABOUT HIM HERE-- AND GON LEADERS INCLUDING KOUNTCHE ARE CERTAINLY FULLY AWARE OF HIS DRAWBACKS AS A SPOKESMAN--PRESIDENT'S INDICATION OF PERSONAL ESTEEM SEEMS SINCERE. AMIN'S VISIT HERE AFTER 1974 COUP MADE A DEEP AND FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WHICH AMIN'S PERSONAL DIPLOMACY IN KAMPALA HAS NOW PROBABLY REINFORCED. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS TELL US WHILE AGENDA FOR OAU WAS, AS ALWAYS, CLUTTERED AND OVERLY AMBITIOUS, AMIN'S SPECIAL BRAND OF AFRICAN HOSPITALITY PLUS IMPRESSIVELY ORGANIZED SIDESHOWS AT KAMPALA HAD A NET FAVORABLE IMPACT ON KOUNTCHE AND MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AS WELL. DAVISON

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## Message Attributes

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